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Green Tree Church of the  
Brethren in the village ...

GREEN TREE CHURCH  
OF THE BRETHREN



1845

1945

One Hundredth Anniversary

CELEBRATED SEPTEMBER 7-11, 1949

GREEN TREE CHURCH  
OF THE BRETHREN

OAKS, PENNSYLVANIA



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THE PASSING YEARS

1845 - 1945



THE SANCTUARY

*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go unto the house of the Lord."*

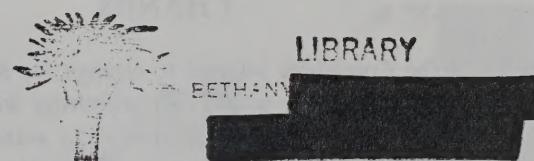
IVAN C. FETTERMAN, *Minister*

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FRIEND, you enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your Heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal men who, in the name of Jesus Christ, builded this place of worship, and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with their prayers and praises. Beseech His blessing on those who love this home of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you, both on your going out and on your coming in.

*(From a Twelfth Century Church in Boldre, Hampshire, England)*

THE RICH HERITAGE  
OF 100 YEARS OF  
CHRISTIAN SERVICE



GREEN TREE CHURCH OF  
THE BRETHREN  
in the Village of Oaks  
Pennsylvania

1845

1945

## GREETINGS

The Green Tree Church of the Brethren in Oaks, Pa., in celebrating its one hundredth anniversary, extends to everyone a most cordial welcome. It is our hope that former members and friends of the church will find opportunity to renew acquaintances among those of the present congregation, challenging them to go forward with courage and strength, assured that the God who wrought for those in the past is the same God for us, today.



## THANKS

The Committee selected to arrange for this One Hundredth Anniversary wishes to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the fine cooperation of the many who offered suggestions and performed tasks to make this occasion one of spiritual vision and helpfulness. It has been a pleasure to serve and a distinct honor to have had a part in this observance of "One Hundred Years."

E. GRANT KEYSER, *Chairman*

ELI H. STOLTZFUS

ERNEST D. YOCUM

IVAN C. FETTERMAN



THE PARSONAGE  
Tel. Valley Forge 2721



THE SEXTON'S HOUSE  
*Present Sexton*  
Mr. Paul M. Wisler (Assumed his duties May 19, 1949)  
Tel. Valley Forge 4153



REV. IVAN C. FETTERMAN



MRS. IVAN C. FETTERMAN

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

We find ourselves today a few years past the "turn of a century" in the history of the Green Tree Church. Much could be said about the glories of the past. Through the years, the church has witnessed days of prosperity and days of adversity, days of joy and days of sorrow, but always there has been in our midst the presence of Almighty God.

It is a joy and a privilege for Mrs. Fetterman and myself to serve in the Green Tree Church, having come here November 4, 1948. This is less than a year ago, but we feel "at home," and we are grateful to God for every friend in the church and in the community.

Any success that may come during our ministry will be due to the good foundations laid by former pastors and friends of the church, to their unfaltering faith and trust in God, and to the wholesome spirit of cooperation now exemplified among the present members and friends of the church.

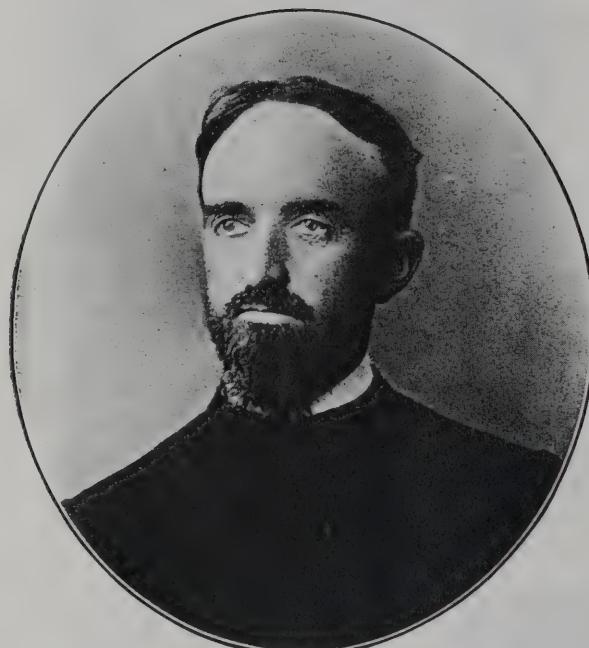
The future is bright with the promises of God. May we be quick to meet every opportunity to extend our Lord Christ's Kingdom in our growing community and to the ends of the earth.

Let us as Pastor and people, re-dedicate ourselves to Him who said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

In His Name,  
IVAN C. FETTERMAN

## THE RICH HERITAGE OF GREEN TREE

### HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



REV. J. G. FRANCIS  
*Church Historian*

to reward his hospitality, for in the afternoon, in the summer time, he would hold open air services in Brower's meadow. Elder George was often accompanied by his son John. The father preached in German and the son in English. It will thus be seen that the original services of the Green Tree Church were German. Today no German is spoken in the neighborhood.

The first-fruits of this Gospel seed-sowing in Brower's meadow were Mary and Elizabeth Brower, who connected themselves with the Coventry Church. This was a number of years before 1823, the year in which Elder George Price died. Elizabeth Brower became the second wife of Nathan Pennypacker and the mother of Sister Fannie Fitzwater.

The next important step in the history of the Green Tree Church was the conversion of Bella Fitzwater, the sister of John Umstad. The Lord laid his hand on her in sickness. Sara Righter, afterward the wife of Thomas Major, and also a prophetess, was called to see the invalid. Because of Mrs. Fitzwater's illness, her husband objected to her being baptized; but she was determined

#### EARLY BEGINNINGS

Perhaps as early as 1800, Elder George Price of Coventry, grandfather of Elder Isaac Price, preached at the Methacton meeting-house, about two miles northwest of Norristown. The trip of about twenty miles was made by horse and carriage—rather a long drive before 10 a.m. on Sunday morning. So the faithful preacher would leave home on Saturday afternoon, and stop over night with Daniel Brower, who lived on the old Brower farm adjoining the Umstad farm on the east. Browers were Mennonites. After services at Methacton, five miles away, Elder Price would return to Browers for dinner. He did not fail

and declared that she would be baptized though she died in the water. And sick and alone, she was baptized. This was in 1831. In this, her determination may be found the faith which brought forth the Green Tree Church.

There was a general revival all over this section of country from 1830 to 1840. It was the spirit of this general awakening that had laid hold on Bella Fitzwater. Later in the fall of this same year, meetings held by the Brethren of Coventry in the neighborhood led to a great awakening. The example and prayers of Bella Fitzwater soon brought her husband, Abel Fitzwater, to the Cross. Both John Umstad and Isaac Price were present, but unconverted, at the baptism of their brother-in-law. John Umstad was inclined to get fun out of his sister Isabella's piety. But in two weeks' time both of these two future eminent preachers went down into the baptismal waters. Many more, during this year, were gathered into the fold. Among them were Joseph Pennypacker and wife, George Price and wife, and Samuel Supplee and wife. Though these events are given for the year 1831, there is reason to place them a year earlier, for it seems that Lydia Francis, wife of John Francis of Shannonville, must have been baptized in the early summer of 1831.

So large had become the flock around Lumberville that it was necessary to build a special fold for it. An agreement was entered into with the Methodists, who had also been holding meetings in the neighborhood, to erect a house of worship at Lumberville. It seems that this house was built in 1832. It was of stone, two stories high, the upper story being used for school purposes and the lower for church services. Nathan Pennypacker, noted for liberality, was solicited for aid, much being expected. He gave one dollar. He afterward explained that if it were a "Dunker" meeting-house, or one of another denomination, he would have given much more liberally. Subsequent history bore out the correctness of his anticipation of a union house.

Now occurs an event in the history of this little mission which was destined to lead to great blessing throughout our entire Brotherhood—the conversion of James Quinter. Before the Lumberville meeting-house was finished, the newly converted Brethren held public worship in the school-houses and prayer-meetings in their homes. James Quinter, referring to Brother Umstad's home at this time, called it the "Pilgrim's Rest," and Abel Fitzwater's home he designates a "Bethel." Among the school-houses utilized for public services was the one at the Green Tree. Writing to a sister in the neighborhood, and Brother Quinter thus describes his conversion: "How distinctly do I remember the meeting in the old school-house (the Green Tree) not far from your residence, where the bow, 'though drawn at a venture,' sent arrows of conviction into my poor heart, which produced pain and sorrow, from which I could find no relief, until I found it in the healing virtues contained in the stream which flowed from the pierced side of the dying Savior." After services were held at the home of Brother Umstad to a late hour of the night for the comfort and salvation of

those under conviction, Brother Quinter tells of the solemnity to him of that night as he journeyed homeward toward Abel Fitzwater's, alone, "without Christ . . . having no hope and without God in the world." For some time he groped on in darkness, until one day while working in the barn at Fitzwater's, turning the windmill, he suddenly stopped, the light beginning to dawn on his soul. "I've got—I've got it!" he exclaimed, and ran to the house. "I've got it—peace with God!"

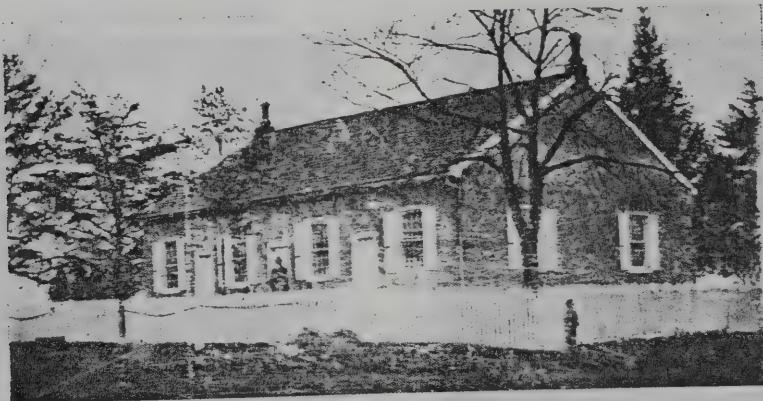
The above event must have taken place some time in 1832, for in 1833 he taught his first school at Hobson's school-house. He taught here from 1834 to 1841. Soon after his conversion, he was impressed with a call to the Christian ministry. Although the impression continued to grow stronger, he quietly awaited the time of the church's call. Finally in 1838, in a council meeting held in the home of Brother George Price, a short distance west of Green Tree, he was elected to the ministry.

Let us return to the old mission at Lumberville. The first love-feast in this section of the country was held in the new barn of Brother John Umstad, wherein neither hay nor straw had ever yet lain—certainly a good way to consecrate a building to the office of holding God's blessings of the field. Be it here said that in those days it was the custom to hold love feasts in the barns. It is said that at this love feast the project of building the Union meeting house at Lumberville was started. If so, this love feast must have been held in the spring of 1832, instead of 1833, as has been given.

The members of the mission were zealous, and God blessed them in increase of both numbers and power. It is claimed by no less authority than James Quinter that the first prayer meetings and protracted meetings of the Brotherhood were held in the Lumberville Church. Referring to these prayer meetings in his last years, Brother Quinter says: "Our prayer meetings that were held in the beginning of the church here afforded us very good opportunities for exercising our gifts. While those meetings were excellent promoters of our spiritual life, they were good schools for our improvement in many ways. In these meetings, we exercised somewhat freely, as did the Brethren and Sisters generally. Of the spirit of the meetings he writes: "And what blessed meetings we had in those days of planting of the church at Green Tree. How simple and childlike were our exercises! How warm our zeal! How ardent our Christian love to one another! How closely were our hearts drawn together in Christian fellowship! And we loved God because he first loved us. Those were happy times, oases, or green and watered spots in the land of our pilgrimage. Our sky was bright, and our sea, with the exception of some little breezes that would ruffle the surface occasionally, smooth." May the Green Tree Church never depart from her first love, and if she has or does may she speedily return that her candle-stick be not moved out of its place!

#### THE GREEN TREE CHURCH ORGANIZED

The Coventry Church was very active in home mission work. Besides missions at Nantmeal and Lawrenceville, in Chester County, she had missions in Montgomery County at Lumberville and Shannonville and a joint interest in the work at Methachton. The work in Montgomery was rapidly developing into a separate congregation. The Lumberville mission before it was a separate congregation began already to shoot out branches of her own. We find John Umstad very busy before he was the overseer. He had a hand in starting up the work at Upper Dublin. He was instrumental in baptizing the first ten members taken in at Mingo. He held aloof, however from the work at Shannonville. He was making extended missionary trips out into the Brotherhood, as when he took James Quinter to western Pennsylvania. All these things took place before there was a Green Tree Church. But conditions had ripened for a new congregation. John Umstad had the situation well in hand. He gave the ground for the erection of the new church,—the union house at Lumberville not being satisfactory. The church received its name from an enormous evergreen, which stood on the corner of Umstad's lane and the public highway. A similar tree now stands close to the church on the west side. The church, a stone one, with three doors on the east side, was erected in 1845. The house was dedicated June 6, 1845, and this may be regarded as the birthday of the congregation.



THE CHURCH AS IT APPEARED 1869

After the church was built at Green Tree and the Brethren began worshipping there, the adopted place for baptizing was the Schuylkill River below Umstad's dam. Down the lane, across the wooden bridge spanning the canal, a hymn and a prayer in the open, through the crowds covering the slope to the river side, out into the liquid stream, kneeling in the water. "Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?" . . . a threefold immersion, the laying on of hands, prayer for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit, the salutation of Christian fellowship—the holy kiss—both in the water and on the shore, then back

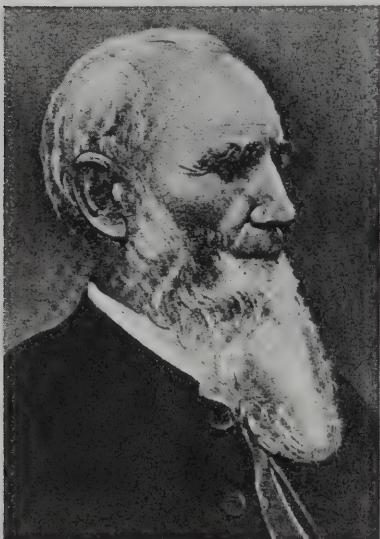
## THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH



JOHN UMSTAD  
Elected to the Ministry 1834



ISAAC PRICE  
Elected to the Ministry 1834



JAMES QUINTER  
Elected to the Ministry 1838



JACOB Z. GOTTWALS  
Elected to the Ministry about 1855

EMMANUEL HEYSER  
Elected to the Ministry about 1858  
(No Photo Available)

## THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH



J. T. MYERS — 1877-1905



C. F. MCKEE — 1907-1921



HARVEY REPOGLE — 1921-1940



DAVID K. HANAWALT — 1940-1947

into the world but not of it, a new creature in Christ Jesus! The banks of the Schuylkill below the dam is a place too sacred in the hearts of many for words to express—a scene worthy of the brush of a master for the preservation of primitive Christianity.

#### THE CHURCH GROWS

The Green Tree Church continued to grow. Just who and how many were baptized in the decade that followed we have not been able to tell with absolute accuracy. From 1856 to 1858 was a time of great ingathering. Brother Umstad writes in the *Gospel Visitor* of May, 1858, p. 159: "We have had quite a revival in some of the churches east where the Brethren believe in protracted effort . . . at Coventry they have an unprecedented revival. Last Sunday they baptized thirty, and on the fifteenth of May, there will be forty-one more added to the church. We at the Green Tree get along more slowly, yet we ought not to complain, since there have been about twenty added to the church here this spring, and there seems to be a spirit of religious inquiry among the people much more than usual."

The revival at Green Tree seems to have started with the series of meetings of two weeks held here by James Quinter in December, 1856. Among other things Brother Quinter says of the meetings: "A more solemn meeting throughout, we never witnessed. The meeting continued about two weeks; during which time, thirty-two were added to the church by baptism. And at the close of the meetings, there were others who offered themselves as candidates for baptism." "The recollection that several of the converts had in former years been our pupils, and that they had often bowed with us in our school room, while we endeavored to implore heaven's blessing upon them, gave us increased pleasure at witnessing their 'good confession.'" John Umstad then accompanied Brother Quinter to New Jersey; and after their return to Green Tree, there was another baptism. Another revival in 1858, according to an aged sister, was almost a duplicate of this one. Some of the staunchest members of the church entered at this time.

#### THE MINISTRY

Elder George Price of Coventry with his son John were the first ministers of the Brethren to preach in this neighborhood; but there was no organized work yet in the days of Elder Price. During the oversight of John Price, the Lumberville, now Port Providence, church was built. About 1834, an election for a minister was held at Lumberville. Both John Umstad and Isaac Price were elected. Brother Price objected; he thought that God had not called him. John Umstad had no objections, but entered, as was his wont, into the work with a vim. In those days of the oversight of John Price, Sr., William Price of Indian Creek came frequently to Port Providence to preach. But he was very German. This intermingling of labors of the Green Tree Church with the "church of the Plains," now Indian Creek, Hatfield and Springfield, continued throughout the days of John Umstad and Jacob Gottwals.

George Price, the brother of Isaac, was elected to the ministry a few years later. He was the last of the Coventry line of Prices to be elected to the ministry.

James Quinter was elected in 1838 and in his four years of ministry at Green Tree left a lasting impression for good not only in the neighborhood but also in adjoining congregations. John Francis was converted about 1840. His abilities as a preacher are spoken of as of a high order, but in a few years he became discouraged in his labors. By 1845 David Rittenhouse was in the ministry. He was regarded as able, but was very strict for the so-called order of the church.

About August 1, 1855, Jacob Z. Gottwals was elected to the ministry. About three or four years later, at the time that Emmanuel Heyser was elected to the ministry, he was advanced. At the Harvest Meeting of 1873, following the death of John Umstad, he, with Isaac Price, was ordained to the eldership. He continued to oversee the Green Tree Church till 1897, when he resigned his oversight.

About 1858, Emmanuel Heyser was called to the ministry. He was the choice of the younger men of the congregation. Young people's meetings, rather in the undesirable spirit of opposition to the old members, were held at the time at Green Tree. He was zealous in the work and found favor. After the war he went to Georgia, taught school among the Negroes, at the same time preaching the Gospel to them. His work awakened the interest of the entire Brotherhood and offerings for his work were lifted throughout the churches. Another brother to be elected to the ministry from the membership of Green Tree was J. G. Francis. He was born January 13, 1870. He graduated from Ursinus College in 1891 with the degree of A. B. He spent fifteen months in the Mount Morris Bible School. He was called to the ministry in 1893, and fully installed in 1895. He then spent a year in Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and the following year he received the B.D. degree from Ursinus College. He also won the Peter's Prize in New Testament Greek. He was advanced in the ministry in 1899, before going to Reading, Pennsylvania. He later moved to Lebanon, Pennsylvania, where he still resides and is active in the work of the church.

The last brother to be elected to the ministry from Green Tree was John Grimley. He was called July 28, 1936, and installed into the ministry September 8, 1937. He graduated from Juniata College and from Bethany Biblical Seminary, and since 1942, he and his wife, the former Mildred Hess, have been serving on the Africa Mission Field.

#### FULL TIME PASTORS OF THE CHURCH

Brother J. T. Myers became pastor of the church in July, 1877, serving until July, 1905, or for a period of twenty-eight years. The writer is one of many who would rise and call him blessed because of the work he did as pastor of the Green Tree Church.

Brother C. F. McKee was pastor from September 9, 1907 to 1921. This pastorate was one of efficiency and blessing. From Green Tree Brother McKee took a pastorate in Ohio.

Other ministers to serve the Green Tree Church were the following: Brother Harvey S. Replogle from December 2, 1921, until his death June 1, 1940, and Brother David K. Hanawalt from September 1, 1940, serving until his resignation effective September 29, 1947, having accepted a position with the Pennsylvania State Council of Churches with headquarters in Harrisburg.

The present pastor of the church is Brother Ivan C. Fetterman, having come to the church November 4, 1948.

#### GREEN TREE LEADS IN NEW METHODS OF CHURCH WORK

Green Tree has ever been in the van in adopting substantial new methods of church work. James Quinter credited her with the first protracted meeting and first modern prayer meetings. On March 20, 1899, there was presented a query in regard to Young People's Meetings to be sent to Annual Meeting but it failed to pass District Meeting.

October 3, 1881, the Sisters were authorized to organize an Aid Society for the relief of the Huntingdon Orphan Home. Sister Fannie Fitzwater, wife of Joseph Fitzwater, was for a long time at the head of this work.

The first steps toward a new state district were taken at Green Tree. April 3, 1882, a petition was sent to District Meeting asking for a delegate from the English churches to Annual Meeting; or, in other words, a representative on Standing Committee. March 28, 1904, Green Tree requested plainly, sending a petition to District Meeting, asking that the English speaking churches be organized into a separate district.

While Elder John Umstad was a very strong opponent to Sunday Schools, yet from early Sunday School times, Green Tree has been a staunch and aggressive champion of the cause. The Sunday School here was started in 1869 by Joseph Fitzwater, a nephew of John Umstad. Brother Fitzwater had great influence with Brother Umstad and finally secured his permission "to go ahead and do all the good he could."

In the cause of temperance Green Tree also has an enviable record of loyalty to the order of the Brotherhood. Isaac Price was a bright and shining light. In 1888 J. T. Myers presented a query which was sent to District Meeting, representing the churches of the district to use unfermented wine. The sisters' organization of the church was imbued with temperance zeal. They frequently had members of the W. C. T. U. to speak in the church.

The doors of the Green Tree Church were thrown open for anti-secret conventions. For many years the commencements of Upper Providence township were held within her walls. By wise policies Green Tree had made herself the church of the community.

The Green Tree Church was also first to take advanced steps in the matter of church records. The following query was sent to District Meeting in 1881. "Would it not be well at our next District Meeting to have a report from each church of the number of accessions, either by letter or baptism, during the past year; and also to have a portion of time set apart to discuss the best means of advancing not only the growth but the spirituality of the Church?"

It was also from the Green Tree Church that the query went asking recognition for the Brethren Historical Society. In 1899 through the instigation of J. G. Francis, the congregation decided to keep a more complete record of church history. Brother Francis was appointed the first registrar, and was likely the first member of the Church of the Brethren to hold such a position.

There are substantial reasons to believe that the idea of dividing the Brotherhood into districts first started with the Green Tree Church. Elder John Umstad called a District Meeting in the Green Tree Church, September 22, 1860. The meeting was organized by appointing Jacob Gottwals, Moderator, and Isaac Price, Secretary. Looked at from many points of view, this was a regular District Meeting of the Brotherhood.

#### CONCLUSION

Space does not permit a review of the church alterations made about 1890, placing the entrance on the north side, where an ample vestibule was added, and the raised pulpit at the opposite side with an alcove back of it. A pool was built into the church in 1899, and other alterations were made in 1907. The most recent changes were started in 1943 and completed in 1949, these alterations are more fully described elsewhere in this book.

Also due to lack of space, the names of many faithful members have been omitted here, but their names are recorded in the Book of Life. May God help us to more and more appreciate our rich heritage of the past, and from it may we be challenged to face with courage the road that is ahead.

## GREEN TREE CHURCH

Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman, *Pastor and Elder*

Rev. B. F. Waltz, *Associate Elder*

Miss Clara Harper, *Missionary*

Mr. John D. Wenger, *Church Clerk*

Mr. Robert W. Campbell, *Music Director*

Mrs. David H. Famous, *Organist*

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Chairman*

Henry Detwiler, Sr., *Secretary*

J. C. Kopenhaver

E. Grant Keyser

John D. Wenger

Joseph G. Famous

Earl G. Smith

Isaac M. Davis

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E. D. Yocom, *Secretary*

Eli H. Stoltzfus

### WELFARE BOARD

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Mrs. John D. Wenger

Mrs. Samuel Yerger

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John D. Wenger, *Secretary*

Paul Yerger, *Financial Secretary*

Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Treasurer*

Joseph G. Famous

J. C. Kopenhaver

E. D. Yocom

Howard Famous

George J. Hallman, Jr.

Elmer Landis

Isaac M. Davis

George H. Smith

Samuel Yerger

Herbert Stierly

David R. P. Beynon

Henry D. Detwiler, Sr.

James Brower

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EDUCATION

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Earl G. Smith, *Vice President*  
E. D. Yocom, *Secretary*  
E. Grant Keyser, *Treasurer*  
Mrs. George Bishop  
Mrs. Henry Detwiler, Sr.  
Mrs. Charles Reese  
Mr. Robert Kehr

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

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Nancy Keyser, *Vice President*  
Anna McCormick, *Secretary*  
Howard Yocom, *Treasurer*  
Mildred Smith, *Pianist*  
Nancy Detwiler, *Chorister*  
Mr. Earl Smith      } *Adult Advisers*  
Mrs. Paul Yerger      }

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Mrs. Ivan Fetterman, *President*  
Mrs. Laura Heitzman, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Paul Yerger, *Treasurer*

CHURCH USHERS

Donald Landis  
William M. Keyser  
Karlton Smith  
Henry Detwiler, Jr.  
Robert Kehr  
Frank Famous  
Albert Smith  
Robert Detwiler  
Donald Kehr

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Mrs. Rebecca Detwiler  
Mrs. Paul Yerger  
Miss Adele Mowere

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

People at Green Tree have always been interested in music, both vocal and instrumental, and they enjoy singing together.

About 1900 a Singing School was organized with Robert Trucksess as leader. Other leaders were Harry Crosscup and Rev. Robert Gottschall.

Early in 1917, Arthur Dunmore was elected as Choir Director, and a little later Mrs. Calvin Eroh served in this office for about two years. Harry Crosscup was music director from February, 1920 to September 1924, and Rev. Paul Zuck held the office from January, 1925 to February, 1931. Mrs. Ruth T. White served from February, 1939 to November, 1945. Our present choir leader — Robert Campbell — was elected in the fall of 1946.

At first a Reed Organ was used for services, and then the Young Men's Bible Class purchased a Piano for use in the Church. In June, 1937 the Church purchased a Hammond Electric Organ which is still in use. The piano is still in the church, being used for Sunday School.

As far as can be determined, the first Organist was Miss Sara Gotwals, followed by Misses Sara Bechtel, Helen Hallman, Orpha Bechtel, Dorothy McKee, Clara Hallman and Marie Williams. Mrs. Clara Hallman Famous, the present organist, has held the position since 1931.

During the time Paul Zuck was Music Director, a Band was organized, having both Young People and Adults as members. A number of instruments were purchased by both the Band and the members. Mr. Charles Rawlins served as director from January 1931 to December 1933.

An Orchestra, which played for Sunday School, was organized about 1923 and served for a number of years.

Note: If we have omitted any who have served as leaders or organist, the omission has been unintentional and we trust will be excused.

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

WILLIS N. STOLTZFUS

ROBERT J. SCHNOVEL

R. WILSON LITKA

*who, in the Armed Services of the United States of  
America, made the supreme sacrifice in World War II,*



AND IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED

Morris Holsberg	Elva Neuhauser
Herbert Beattie	Margaret Ritchie
Chester S. Mowere	Donald Smith
J. Lynwood Wenger	Robert Myers
Charles Hughes	William M. Keyser
Willis E. Rutter	David R. P. Beynon, Jr.
William Williams, Jr.	Horace Ashenfelter, Jr.
Hiram Hedrick	David Miller
Donald G. Besemer	John Petiet
Charles Freece	Robert Campbell
John E. Brower, Jr.	Robert John Love
Donald Shronk	William R. Pierce
Walter Beattie	Lewis Beattie
William Myers	Isabella McCormick
Albert Moss	John N. Francis
Alfred W. Stierly	Percival Dunlap, Jr.
Horace Beattie	Ernest Yocom, Jr.
William Bard	William Ashenfelter
Morris Pennock	Howard McIntyre

## HISTORY OF GREEN TREE BRETHREN SUNDAY SCHOOL



JOSEPH FITZWATER  
Superintendent for 53 Years

The Green Tree Brethren Sunday School was organized in 1869 with Joseph Fitzwater as Superintendent. From 1869 to 1880, the school was without a secretary, and records are not available for that period. On April 25, 1880, the Sunday School appointed Joseph Fitzwater, Superintendent; Lewis E. Griffen, Secretary; Samuel Griffen, Treasurer; and M. I. Davis, Chorister. The Sunday School was held during the summer months only from 1880-1899. Church services were held in the morning at 10:30, and Sunday School, in the afternoon at 2:30.

In 1881, the class teachers were Mary Casselberry, Hannah Cassel, Tillie Hallman, Ada Fitzwater, Harriet Hallman, Bella Myers, Ida Gotwals, Fannie Fitzwater, Lizzie Dunn, Howard Dettra, Frank Fox, Joseph Casselberry, Isaac Detwiler, John B. Dettra, Jacob Cassel, Samuel J. Griffen, Sophie Casselberry, and Rev. J. T. Myers.

The Sunday School closed its summer session on November 19, 1899, and on December 3 of that year re-opened for its winter session as a Bible School. The school has functioned as a year-round school since that date.

In 1902, the teachers were Bella Myers, Leila Price, Lydia Reaver, Katharine Detwiler, Bella Harley, Amos Gotwals, Norris Brower, Sallie Umstad, Eva Hood, S. K. Anson, Ida Gotwals, Arnold Francis, George J. Hallman, Ella Ellis, and Rev. J. T. Myers.

The basement of the church was excavated in 1912 to make room for the Sunday School classes of the Primary Department.

A history of the Sunday School would not be complete without some reference to the life of Joseph Fitzwater, who was the able and faithful superintendent from the time of the school's organization in 1869 until 1922—a total of 53 years of service to the church and the community. Born near the town which is now known as Port Providence on May 25, 1829 and reared in a home that



WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS — 1922

was noted for its love and care of boys and girls, Brother Fitzwater was always deeply interested in the welfare of young people. This touch with youthful life, coupled with his sterling Christian character, helped to make him the successful superintendent that he was through all the years he served. Heredity and environment united in the development of one who gave to the Sunday School, Church, and community a service which was unique. In spite of his years, Brother Fitzwater's work for youth kept him young in spirit. He was a man with vision and power to inspire others in the work of the Lord.

Five superintendents have served the Sunday School since its origin:

Joseph Fitzwater .....	1869-1922
S. H. Yocom .....	1922-1927
Paul Zuck .....	1927-1930
George J. Hallman .....	1930-1935
Eli H. Stoltzfus .....	1935-

Special mention should be made of Lewis E. Griffen, who most efficiently and faithfully served the Sunday School as secretary from 1880 until 1933, when he was elected Secretary Emeritus. Fifty-three years of service to the Sunday School is certainly a record anyone should be proud to hold. Brother Griffen also acted as treasurer of the school from 1898 until 1922.

Only two of the original scholars of the Sunday School, who attended at its inception in 1869, are living at the present time. They are Mrs. Annie Hamel and Miss Harriet Hallman.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Superintendent*

Earl G. Smith  
Henry Detwiler, Sr. } *Assistant Superintendents*

E. D. Yocom, *Secretary*

David R. P. Beynon, *Assistant Secretary*

E. Grant Keyser, *Treasurer*

### DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS

Mrs. George Bishop, *Primary*

Mrs. Paul Yerger, *Cradle Roll*

Mrs. J. Elmer Neuhauser, *Missionary*

Mr. Albanus Rowland, *Temperance*

Mrs. Ernest Yocom, *Home Department*

### CHORISTERS

Miss Ruth Miller

Mrs. Frank Detwiler

Miss Nancy Shronk

### PIANISTS

Mrs. David H. Famous

Miss Miriam Daywalt

Miss Nancy Detwiler

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

#### SECRETARIES

Mrs. Karl Kehr

Mrs. David Beynon

## DEPARTMENTS AND TEACHERS

### NURSERY

Mrs. Paul Yerger

Assistants

Mrs. Mildred Beattie

Mrs. Freda Bouche

### PRIMARY

Miss Miriam Daywalt

Mrs. Dorothy Pennock

Miss Agnes Davis

### INTERMEDIATE

Mrs. Gary Edwards

Mr. Henry Detwiler, Sr.

Mrs. Frank Detwiler

### YOUNG PEOPLE

Mrs. David H. Famous

Mr. Albanus Rowland

### BEGINNER

### JUNIOR

Mrs. Pauline Dotts

Mrs. Norma Smith

Miss Mildred Smith

Mrs. Edna Rittenhouse

Mrs. Laura Heitzman

Miss Claudine Bradford

### ADULTS

Mrs. J. Elmer Neuhauser

Mrs. Joseph Famous

Mr. John D. Wenger

## GREEN TREE BRETHREN CHURCH ANNEX



THE ANNEX

In 1921, when the Green Tree School was advertised for sale, the Young Men's Bible Class thought it would be a valuable asset to the property of the church. The class decided to buy the building, provided it could be obtained for \$2,000 or less. So, with forty-eight cents in the treasury and an abundance of faith, together with great encouragement from Miss Katharine Detwiler, the teacher, the building was purchased for \$1635.00. Money was borrowed from the church for the down payment, and the property in turn was presented to the church. The class, by sponsoring plays, festivals, suppers, and lectures, was able to repay the loan in six years.

It was necessary to make several alterations on the building. A kitchen was built to the north end. Girders were installed to support the second floor and iron posts on the first floor were removed, thus giving additional space, and a partition was added to the second floor to provide for more class rooms. A new roof was added, and the south end of the building was extended the width of the original porch, and to this addition a new stairway was built. Hardwood floors were laid and the exterior of the building was plastered. A basement was excavated and a heater installed.

During the past two years, the men and boys of the church spent many nights painting and refinishing the interior, and very recently the floors were sanded and refinished. The most recent improvement is the new kitchen which is double the size of the old one, and is being built by the Young Men's Bible Class. This work, at this writing, is nearly completed.

The area about the building is a great asset to parking, and is used for various social events. The Annex has been a great blessing to the church and the community, and a blessing to the men who had courage to face the road ahead.

## CALENDAR OF ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

September 7-11, 1949



WEDNESDAY EVENING, September 7  
Eight o'clock

### *Oaks Community Service*

Rev. E. J. Harry, *Presiding*

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 17: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

#### INVOCATION

HYMN 322: "Faith of Our Fathers"

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 90 ..... Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman

ANTHEM ..... St. Paul's Memorial Church Choir

HYMN 127: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

"GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES" to the Green Tree Church:

Mr. John C. Dettra (*Dettra Flag Company*)

Mr. James Sweat (*B. F. Goodrich Company*)

Mr. Robert R. Titus (*Synthane Corporation*)

Mr. Fred Cage (*Peerless Paper Mills*)

SOLO ..... Mr. F. W. Wagner

PRAYER ..... Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman

ADDRESS ..... Rev. E. J. Harry, Rector St. Paul's Memorial Church, Oaks, Pa.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM. St. Paul's Memorial Church Choir

#### BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN 185: "The Church's One Foundation"

#### POSTLUDE

THURSDAY EVENING, September 8

Eight o'clock

*Phoenixville Community Service*

Service Conducted by the Phoenixville Ministerial Association

*Master of Ceremonies*—The Rev. Samuel Koons

THE SERVICE

PRELUDE: "Day is Dying in the West" .....	<i>Thompson</i>
HYMN 192: "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"	
VESPER VERSICLES .....	The Rev. Samuel Koons
THE SCRIPTURE .....	The Rev. William Silbert
HYMN 67: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	
THE SERMON .....	The Rev. Charles Moser
THE OFFERING	
THE ANTHEM	
INTRODUCTION OF THE CLERGY .....	The Rev. William Blatt
HYMN 187: "Jesus, With Thy Church Abide"	
THE PRAYERS .....	The Rev. William Lannigan
HYMN 185: "The Church's One Foundation"	
THE BENEDICTION .....	The Rev. Ronald Adams
POSTLUDE .....	<i>Ashford</i>



THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

located in the room directly back of the organ, will be open to the public each evening and all day Sunday. The committee in charge: Mrs. Ernest Yocom, Mrs. Ralph Dunmore, Mrs. Samuel Yerger.

FRIDAY EVENING, September 9

Eight o'clock

*Southeastern District Service*

Rev. B. F. Waltz, *Presiding*

THE SERVICE

PRELUDE—Largo from "New World Symphony" ..... *Dvorak*

HYMN 8: "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

INVOCATION ..... The Rev. W. G. Nyce

SONG SERVICE ..... The Rev. George William Landis

THE SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER ..... The Rev. Joseph N. Cassel

ANTHEM ..... The Coventry Church of the Brethren Choir

ADDRESS: "A Century of District Work" ..... Mr. W. Roland Howe

RESPONSES: By Members of the District Boards

*The Ministerial Board* ..... Rev. Glen E. Norris

*The Mission Board* ..... Rev. Alvin S. Alderfer

*Board of Christian Education* ..... Mrs. Glen E. Norris

*CBYF Cabinet* ..... Mr. Mark Waltz

*Women's Work* ..... Mrs. Henry Funk

*Men's Work* ..... Mr. Rudolph Kulp

OFFERING

ANTHEM ..... The Coventry Church of the Brethren Choir

HYMN 61: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman

POSTLUDE IN D ..... *Mallard*

SATURDAY EVENING, September 10

Five o'clock

*Young People's Centennial Service*

Service at the Wren's Nest, Conducted by Members  
of the District CBYF Cabinet

*Master of Ceremonies*—Mr. Mark Waltz

THE PROGRAM

5:00 - 6:00 o'clock .....	Fellowship Hour
6:00 - 7:00 o'clock .....	Picnic Supper
7:00 - 8:00 o'clock .....	Recreation

CAMP FIRE SERVICE

Eight o'clock

WORSHIP SERVICE ..... Rev. Philip Norris

GREETINGS FROM CBYF SOCIETIES OF THE DISTRICT

GREETINGS FROM THE DISTRICT CBYF CABINET

ADDRESS: "The Road is Ahead" ..... Dr. Charles C. Ellis

CLOSING WORSHIP ..... Rev. Philip Norris

## CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

September 11, 1949

### *Sunday School Celebration*

9:30 A.M.

PRESIDING: Mr. Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Superintendent*

HYMN 14: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER ..... Mr. Eli H. Stoltzfus

HYMN 269: "When We Walk with the Lord"

REMARKS ON THE HISTORY OF THE GREEN TREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mrs. Martha Bechtel

MUSIC

RECOGNITION OF FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS

RESPONSE

MESSAGE ..... Dr. Charles C. Ellis

HYMN 323 "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"

CLOSING MOMENTS



YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS — 1933

*The Morning Worship*

10:30 A.M.

*Organist* ..... Mrs. David H. Famous  
*Choir Director* ..... Robert W. Campbell

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Holy, Holy, Holy" ..... *Lorenz*  
"The Lord's Prayer" ..... *Malotte*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

I will go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy. O send out  
Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me: let them bring me unto Thy holy  
hill, and to Thy tabernacles, that I may go unto the altar of God, unto God  
my exceeding joy, and praise Thee, O God, my God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 185: "The Church's One Foundation"

INVOCATION ..... Dr. Charles C. Ellis

SCRIPTURE READING AND PRAYER ..... The Rev. David K. Hanawalt

ANTHEM

KINGDOM NEWS

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Reception of Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory by *Battmann*

HYMN 256: "Lo, a Gleam from Yonder Heaven"

SERMON: "One Hundred Years for Christ" ..... The Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

HYMN 76: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

BENEDICTION

FESTIVAL POSTLUDE ..... *Nordman*



Lunch will be served in the annex, following the morning and afternoon  
services. The Committee in charge is as follows: Mrs. Rebecca Detwiler, Chair-  
man; Mrs. Mae Smith, Mrs. Florence Kehr.

## *The Commemoration Service*

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

2:30 o'clock

PRESIDING: The Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman

*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of  
my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in  
His temple.*

### WORSHIP WITH THE ORGAN:

"The Holy City" ..... Adams  
"My Task" ..... Ashford

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "God of Our Fathers"

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud and praise be ever thine. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Minister:* Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

*People:* Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst  
formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting,  
Thou art God.



DR. CHARLES C. ELLIS  
Moderator of Annual Conference 1950

*Minister:* For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

*People:* The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

*Minister:* O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God.

*People:* Let us praise the Lord in the mountain of His holiness. We will praise Thee, O God, who hast blessed us with loving kindness and tender mercies all our days.

#### DOXOLOGY

INVOCATION ..... The Rev. Alvin S. Alderfer

QUARTET: Mrs. George Detwiler, Mrs. Frank Detwiler, Ernest Yocum, Jr.,  
Robert W. Campbell

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1-16; 32-40,  
The Rev. D. Howard Keiper

PRAYER ..... The Rev. Ralph Jones

SOLO ..... Philip Fretz

THE CENTENNIAL ADDRESS: "Our Three-fold Brethren Heritage,"  
Dr. Charles C. Ellis, President Emeritus of Juniata College

#### A SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION (*The Congregation Standing*)

*Minister:* Desiring to recognize our indebtedness to God, whose beneficent grace and providence have guided this Church and its people through one hundred years of service, and humbled by the presence of the God of our fathers, we do stand to re-dedicate this Church and ourselves to the glory of God, to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the honor of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* For one hundred years of the ministry of Thy Word, for wise and earnest preaching of Thy Precepts and the Way that leads to life eternal; and for the faithful Ministers who have served as pastors;

*Minister:* For one hundred years of fellowship and brotherly love — and the favor of God in the growth and service of this church and for God's blessing upon the Means of Grace here faithfully used;

*People:* For one hundred years of Thy help in promoting generously the missionary enterprises at home and abroad and for the helpful encouragement of the causes of Christian Education and Evangelism.

*Minister:* For one hundred years of proclaiming the sanctity of the home and the family, for the instruction of Thy people in high and holy things, for the building of Christian character and the teaching of honor, reverence and self control;

*People:* In humble gratitude to all who have loved and served this Church and have gone from us to join the Church Triumphant; we render unto Thee, the God of our Fathers, our deep gratitude and ardent thanksgiving.

*Minister and People:* Now, therefore, we, the members and friends of this congregation, in the presence of God, conscious that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, grateful for each rich inheritance, and sensible of the sacrifices of our fathers, do humbly re-dedicate ourselves, this church and all its appointments, and the powers within us, to the glory of God and to the service of Him, who is the head of the Church, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION ..... The Rev. David K. Hanawalt

HYMN 322: "Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still"

REPORT ON THE CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT .... Mr. Eli H. Stoltzfus

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SELECTION ..... Mr. and Mrs. Paul Zuck

HYMN 363: "Rise Up, O Men of God"

BENEDICTION ..... The Rev. Lawrence E. Thomas

POSTLUDE: "Grand Chorus in D" ..... *Ashford*

*Sunday Evening Festival of Music*

Eight o'clock

THE MELODY MAIDS

*Directed by Mrs. William Lamb of Pottstown, Pa.*

THE PROGRAM

FRELUDUE: "Sketch in F" .....	<i>Demorest</i>
HYMN 25: "Day is Dying in the West"	
INTRODUCTION .....	Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman
MELODY MAIDS:	
"Were You There" .....	Negro Spiritual
"Like as a Father"— <i>a Canon</i>	
Recitation: "The Singers" .....	<i>by Longfellow</i>
PRAYER .....	Rev. Ivan C. Fetterman
HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult"	
MELODY MAIDS:	
"Ave Maria" .....	<i>Schubert</i>
"Dona Nobis Pacem"— <i>a Canon</i>	
"Abide with Me"	
TITHES AND OFFERINGS	
OFFERTORY .....	<i>Cohn</i>
MELODY MAIDS:	
"Count Your Blessings" .....	<i>Morgan</i>
"This is My Country"	
"You'll Never Walk Alone" .....	<i>Rodgers</i>
"Now the Day is Over"	
BENEDICTION	
CHORAL AMEN	
POSTLUDE .....	<i>Haydn</i>



## CHURCH PROPERTY

### ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

During the last five years the Green Tree Church has made extensive improvements and additions to its properties.

The old barn at the parsonage was torn down and replaced with a two-car garage at a cost of \$1600.00, allowing storage space for overseas relief goods accumulated by the district.

The parsonage was painted on the outside, with screen and storm sash provided for the windows. The inside was redecorated and the kitchen modernized.

Purchase of the Ada Fitzwater property opposite the church was deemed necessary to provide convenient living quarters for the sexton. This was an outlay of \$8500.00.

The church sanctuary was in urgent need of new lighting, complete re-decorating, and the installation of new choir lofts. The pews and the pulpit furniture had served their purpose. This project, authorized by church council, also included new stained glass windows throughout with a beautiful oval Gethsemane chancel window. The floors were re-surfaced and treated, and new carpet was placed in the aisles. All doors were re-placed, the woodwork oak veneered, and the chancel rebuilt. Modern rest room facilities were also installed.

The basement used by the Primary Department of the Sunday School also was renewed by recovering the sides and ceiling, installing much needed new modern lighting fixtures and painting throughout.

The project was completed during May 1949 at a cost of \$22,500.00. This together with the Fitzwater property totals \$31,000.00.

Funds were raised by special gifts, the Lord's Acre projects, and contributions by members and friends. Many of the members contribute through the envelope system monthly.

There remains an indebtedness on the Fitzwater property of \$7,550.00 and a balance of \$12,350.00 on church renovation, making a total indebtedness of \$19,900.00.

It would not be fair to burden this entire amount with the present membership, but should be budgeted over several years so that new comers to the church and community may also contribute their share.

The Green Tree Church will gratefully welcome contributions from friends and neighbors of the church.

SPECIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Chairman*

Earl G. Smith

Herbert J. Stierly



WORLD MISSIONARY MAP  
ON DISPLAY

In the exhibit room you will find a large map of the world, showing at a glance the Brethren Service Centers and the Church of the Brethren mission fields, scattered throughout the world. You will be surprised at the size of this map, measuring four by six feet, and constructed on plywood. The map is electrically wired and so devised that each field of service is illuminated when the correct button is pressed.

This is an original map, planned and constructed by Karlton Smith and Donald Smith, sons of Earl Smith, and members of the Green Tree Church. You should find time to see this unusual missionary map, now on display in the exhibit room.

## MISSIONS



MISS CLARA B. HARPER, Africa

### HOME AND ABROAD

The Green Tree Church over the century has been vitally interested in mission work both home and abroad. For many years the church has been represented on the Home Mission Board. Outstanding in Home Mission activities was its part in the founding and building of the Brooklyn Italian Church (now known as Brooklyn Calvary Church) in Brooklyn, New York during the year 1923. John Allegri was its first pastor, succeeded by John H. Musto who is its present pastor.

For many years the church has supported Clara Harper on the Africa Mission Field. Sister Harper first sailed for Africa September 18, 1926 and is now serving her fifth term.

On the pages of the Africa Church of the Brethren, Sister Harper's name stands in the list of the pioneer missionaries, who made the "dark continent" brighter by showing the foot prints of Jesus.

It may have been work of a very different nature for her to walk miles to visit the women in their village homes but she adapted herself easily to the task in Africa. In and about Garkida and in homes at and near Marama, Clara Harper is loved by hundreds of Bura women because she has shown them how to live a finer and better life.

John Grimley originates from a Green Tree family. His parents, Oliver and Sarah Grimley, now reside at Norristown. His grandmother, Martha Bechtel, now over 90 years of age, looks back over a life dearly devoted to the cause of the Master.

Brother John with his wife, Mildred, and family are now beginning their second term on the Africa Mission field. They are highly respected by the natives and have proven themselves very fitting in their work among those in spiritual and physical need.

Green Tree has liberally contributed to the Brethren Service Projects. For the Heifer Project, four men, Elmer Neuhauser, Joseph Famous, Albanus Rowland, and James Brower, going as attendants on the cattle boats to Europe. The Joseph Famous family donated a heifer for this relief. Also the Primary Department of the Sunday School has now a fund sufficient to purchase a heifer for overseas relief.



MR. JOHN GRIMLEY, Africa



### THE WREN'S NEST

The Wren's Nest was the summer home of Dr. Willoughby H. Reed, deceased. It is located approximately three quarters of a mile from Oaks, on Pinetown Road, the East Side of the historic Perkiomen Creek, two hundred yards up stream from the concrete bridge on Egypt Road.

The trustees of the Green Tree Church of the Brethren were given possession of the Wren's Nest in 1944 by the Montgomery National Bank of Norristown, trustees in the estate of Dr. Reed, with the sanction of the court, for the recreational, physical, and spiritual needs of the young people of our church. Bible study and Christian living are emphasized at the Wren's Nest.

The Southeastern District of Pennsylvania used the Wren's Nest for camp three weeks each year during the past three years. This summer it is used principally by our own youth organization.

The Trustee Committee in charge of the Wren's Nest follows:

Henry Detwiler, *Chairman*

Earl G. Smith

James Brower

The Camp Committee is organized as follows:

Henry Detwiler, *Chairman*

Rev. Ivan Fetterman, *Pastor*

Eli H. Stoltzfus, *Deacon Board*

E. Grant Keyser, *Trustee Board*

Earl G. Smith, *Sunday School Representative*

Mildred Smith, *Young People*

John U. Francis, *Boy Scouts*

Mrs. Mabel Sheeler, *Girl Scouts*

Nancy Keyser, *Brownie Scouts*

Beatrice Litka, *Cub Scouts*

## GREEN TREE BRETHREN CEMETERY

Our Church was started one hundred and four years ago in June 1845. Thirteen years later, March 24, 1858, John Umstad who was our First Pastor and owned what is now known as the Synthane Farm, donated 2 65/100 acres of ground for our Church and Cemetery. On June 2, 1884 one acre of ground was purchased from Milton Davis and later additional ground was purchased until our Cemetery covered an area of approximately 5 acres. In August 1942, Robert Titus of Synthane Corporation donated 2 9/10 acres to add to the Cemetery.

The Trustees on April 7, 1862 passed a motion to demand cash payment for all grave yard lots and the first Potters Field was set aside at this time. On September 1, 1884 the price of \$8.00 for a lot 8x20 was established.

The first deed was issued January 8, 1900, up until that time receipts were given for ground purchased.

On September 22, 1919 the Trustees started a Cemetery Trust Fund. All the money from the sale of Cemetery lots is placed in this Trust Fund in the Norristown Penn Trust Company for investment, income of which is used to help defray the expense of keeping the Cemetery in first class condition.

All lots are sold in perpetual care. We still have quite a few lots which have to be kept up since no provision has been made by descendants of purchaser to have the lots changed over to perpetual care.

The price of our lots to day are as follows:

Ten graves lot 16 x 20 feet sells for .....\$140.00

Five graves lot 8 x 20 feet sells for .....\$ 70.00

Two graves lot 8 x 10 feet sells for .....\$ 35.00

Our price for grave digging is \$25.00 per grave plus \$12.00 for grave service which includes greens, lowering device and tent.

## THE LORD'S ACRE PROJECT

The trustees of the Green Tree Church in their meeting August 7, 1945, decided to cultivate land, located directly back of the parsonage, the proceeds to be used for church improvements. This work was to be known as "The Lord's Acre Project." The president of the trustee board was authorized to appoint a committee to be known as The Lord's Acre Committee. The following members were appointed:

Herbert Stirely, *Chairman*  
E. D. Yocom  
J. C. Kopenhaver  
John Wenger  
Howard Famous

The committee decided the plot was too small, so a much larger piece was donated by Mr. L. K. Kauffman of Audubon. The Annex field was sown in barley and the Kauffman field in wheat. The result was \$131.41 for barley, \$608.00 for wheat, and \$131.41 for straw, making a total of \$840.43. The seed, fertilizer, and labor were all donated, so the result was gratifying. The committee was given a vote of thanks and requested to continue.

The following year land was rented from Mr. F. Alan Rhoads of Audubon and sown in wheat. This crop totaled \$1,042.80, but some expenses had to be paid out of that total. The crops in 1948 were a partial failure, netting only \$300.00.

During this present year of 1949, both the wheat and the straw have been sold, the wheat amounting to 409 bushels, but to date the total cash has not been computed. Most of the success of the Lord's Acre Project can be attributed to Mr. Herbert Stierly who donated liberally of his time and the use of his machinery.

April 6, 1948, the trustees began another project, to be known as the Lord's Acre Project No. 2. This was given over to the Financial Committee. The committee planted strawberries and assigned the rows to individuals for care and picking. As a result of this interest, the sum of \$420.00 was realized in 1949. Mr. Earl G. Smith and his faithful workers deserve a great amount of credit for this success.

In closing we mention our last project to be undertaken, that of planting ten acres of corn. The ground is being rented from Mr. William Hazen Shelton, and is located on the west side of the Perkiomen Creek, between the bridge on Egypt Road and the Indian Head Park. The field this fall will be sown in wheat.

## MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS OF THE PAST

### MEMORIAL WINDOWS

CHANCEL WINDOW — CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE. In this window of Christ in Gethsemane there is intimately conveyed the double sense of present agony and spiritual triumph. (Presented in memory of Willis N. Stoltzfus by his wife Betty.)

TRANSOM WINDOWS — ALPHA in Men's Bible Class (Presented by Members of the Church)

OMEGA in Lookout Bible Class (Lewis B. Griffin, Secretary of Sunday School, April 25, 1880 to April 25, 1930.) Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS ROOM — ROSE — Symbol of Messianic promise (Promised Messiah) or Love. (Presented by John C. Dettra in Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. John B. and Sara A. Dettra.)

MOTHER'S ROOM — LILIES — Symbolizes the virginity of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, or purity, innocence, heavenly bliss, or a symbol of Easter. (Presented by Lookout Class.)

VESTIBULE TRANSOMS — SHIP (over main door) — Symbol derived from Latin word Nave, meaning a ship. The original Temples of early Christians, especially the Phoenicians, were built as ships turned upside down. (Presented by Members of the Church.)

IHS Monogram (over side door) — This Monogram is an equivalent of the first three Greek letters for Jesus (Greek - IHSOUS). A Franciscan monk is responsible for the Latin interpretation (Jesus Hominum Salvator—Meaning Jesus the Saviour of Mankind.) (In Memory of Walker L. Hess by His Wife.)

WEST VESTIBULE WINDOW — CROSS and CROWN symbolize FAITH. (Presented by the Keyser Family.)

NORTH EAST VESTIBULE WINDOW — OPEN BIBLE symbolizes CHARITY. (In Memory of Elder Jacob T. and Bella Q. Myers by the Church.)

NORTH WEST VESTIBULE WINDOW — ANCHOR and ROPE symbolize HOPE. (In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Landes.)

### SANCTUARY WINDOWS

STAR OF BETHLEHEM symbolizes the Birth (manifestation or showing) of Jesus. (In Memory of Victor L. Lance by his wife.)

SCROLL symbolizes the wisdom of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem at the age of twelve. (In Memory of Joseph, Frances and Ada Fitzwater by the Sunday School.)

DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit based on the baptism of Jesus. (In Memory of Sadie Griffin Root, by Daughter Catharine.)

CUP, WHEAT and GRAPES symbolize the COMMUNION. (In Memory of Father and Mother Lewis W. and Mary J. Famous.)

CUP AND CROWN of THORNS symbolize Gethsemane, the Rose Garden of God. (In Memory of Elder Harvey S. Replogle.)

CROSS and CROWN of THORNS symbolize the Crucifixion. The cross is the symbol of Faith. The Crown of Thorns with INRI (Greek, Latin and Hebrew inscription on Cross by order of Pilate) means 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.) The CROSS symbolizing DEATH is followed by the CROWN symbolizing RIGHTEOUSNESS. (In Memory of Erwin L. and Annie D. Force by the Family.)

THE RISING SUN symbolizes the RESURRECTION. (In Memory of Kathryn Yerger Zimmerman by the Family.)

THE CROWN and THE PALM LEAVES symbolize the ASCENSION. (In Memory of John A. and Sallie R. Wenger by the Family.)

#### GIFTS

March 24, 1858—Donation of 2 65/100 acres of ground for Church and Cemetery by John Umstad.

May 4, 1885—Donation of \$400.00 for use of Cemetery care for lot of Father and Mother, by Susan Harley.

September 9, 1907—Donation of 2 shares of National Bank of Phoenixville stock by Bro. Samuel Rittenhouse.

January 4, 1928—Donation \$100.00—Elwood Sheeder Estate.

December 31, 1941—Bequeath—Helen Schreiber Estate \$3,480.08.

August 1, 1942—Donation of 2 9/10 acres of ground at South end of Cemetery and 504/1000 acre of ground North of Annex, by Robert Titus, Synthane Corporation.

November 19, 1945—Bequeath for alterations of Church—Emma C. Griffin Estate \$3,771.95.

November 19, 1946—Bequeath, Cemetery care—Lula M. Shepard Estate \$1500.00.

April 8, 1949—Sara E. Buzzard Estate, bequeath \$80.13.

PULPIT BIBLE and BIBLE MARKER — "Presented to The Green Tree Church of the Brethren by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Vernon Dorsett in loving memory of Mary R. and Abel R. Sloan, June 5, 1949."

CHURCH HYMNALS — "Donated by Mrs. Bertha M. Lance in memory of her husband, Mr. Victor L. Lance."

The above are some of the outstanding contributions which we have been able to locate from the records. Our Church has been blest over the years from having Contributors as stated above and from the many not mentioned who have given of their time and money and are still giving bountifully.

## SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS

Sponsored by the Green Tree Church of the Brethren

BOY SCOUTS: George J. Hallman, Jr., *Scoutmaster*  
Roland Pennock, *Assistant Scoutmaster*

GIRL SCOUTS: Mary Pilipietz, *Leader*  
Arlene Gebhardt      } *Assistants*  
Jean Kidd              }

CUB SCOUTS: Charles Reese, *Cubmaster*

BROWNIE SCOUTS: Mildred Smith, *Leader*  
Nancy Keyser, *Assistant*



## GUEST BOOK

You will find in the vestibule of the church a red guest book, especially placed there for this 100th Anniversary Celebration. The committee is anxious to have every person in attendance to register your name, home address, home church, date, and any remarks you may wish to enter. This will be a fine record to keep for the next one hundred years. Won't you please remember to register? Do it now.

Again, we welcome you. Today you are one of us.

100 Years of Christian Service

*This Book Belongs to.....*

*Whose Address is.....*

THINGS I WANT TO REMEMBER

THINGS I WANT TO REMEMBER

## ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

God of our Fathers, and our Father, Who has been from generation to generation our pillar of fire by night and our guiding cloud by day, in gratitude and praise, we lift up our hearts unto Thee:

We bless Thy Holy Name for the men and women who, through the passing years, have built this church, beautiful and lovely, and who have founded and established this congregation, whose names are recorded in the Book of Remembrance to Thine honor and glory:

We thank Thee for the lives and deeps of all who have gone before, followers of Christ, whom they served in the spirit of truth and in the way of love. May we of today not be found wanting but eager and ready with them to go from strength to strength in the joy of His kingdom:

And now as we face the future, confronted with new tasks and present difficulties, keep us as a people from discouragement and fear; suffer not our strength to fail; kindle our vision; make us courageous and of good cheer; lead us on, O King Eternal, into a better and nobler day:

To those who will come after, we would pass on in trust the heritage we have received. We pray for our children, that they grow in wisdom and in favor with God and with man. For the newcomers who throng into this industrial community we ask that from us there may be awakened in them the desire to enter Thy courts.

To all we would pass on the lighted torch of faith and hope and love:

In this One Hundredth Anniversary we praise Thee, O God; we bless Thee; we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, Father Almighty. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.







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